



# NTC

national theatre conference

**2016 NTC Annual Meeting**

**New York City**

**December 2 - 4, 2016**

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*connecting, supporting, and advocating  
for america's theatre since 1925*

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT, RISA BRAININ

Welcome to the 2016 National Theatre Conference! We come together once a year to connect, support and advocate for the American Theatre. Thank you for being here to celebrate so many things: our esteemed award winners, a thriving theatre community, and, of course, each other.

A warm welcome to our new members: thank you for joining the NTC family! I also want to thank the wonderful and hard working Board of Trustees and my assistant Sara Rademacher for planning this inspiring weekend.

Over the past few years, we have created a rich tradition of spending our Friday exploring smaller theatre communities in New York. This year, we visit the thriving Brooklyn scene. On Saturday, we look forward to spending quality time with our award winners. After getting the inside scoop on *Hamilton*, the rest of Sunday is set aside as an opportunity for the membership to connect and share ideas. Please join us for that very important final session at the Manhattan Theatre Club Creative Center.



Finally, thank you so much for the privilege of serving as your President these past two years. I am proud of the work the Board and membership have accomplished together, and look forward to the bright future of NTC.

Best wishes,

President, National Theatre Conference  
Artistic Director, LAUNCH PAD  
University of California, Santa Barbara

## GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

**Serve the American Theatre.** To explore the means of best serving the interests of the American Theatre, and to initiate, encourage and support projects of value and significance with a view to strengthening and broadening the influence of theatre in our country.

**Gather Great Minds Together.** To bring the membership together at least once a year in a spirit of mutual helpfulness for the interchange of aims and ideals, and for the discussion of common problems and interests.

**Learn From The Best.** To provide opportunity for the membership, at its annual meeting, to hear the views of outstanding personalities in the theatre and to observe demonstrations of various techniques in order that the membership may profit thereby.

# NTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

**The Players** 16 Gramercy Park South (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

- 9:00 AM **WELCOME: New Member Orientation**  
Continental breakfast & Tour with Board of Trustees
- 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast for all Members Players Main Hall
- 10:00 AM **SESSION 1: President's Greeting & Introductions**  
Greeting: Risa Brainin  
New Member Rants  
Moderator: Randy Reinholz
- 10:45 AM Travel to Brooklyn Directions on pg. 24

**Brooklyn Academy of Music** Fisher Building, 321 Ashland Pl Brooklyn

- 11:30 AM **SESSION 2: Brooklyn Academy of Music**  
Tour with Director of Production Neil Kutner
- 12:45 PM Lunch Break

**Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts** Long Island University

- 2:00 PM **SESSION 3 Brooklyn, NY: the Vanguard of a New Theater Scene**  
  
Moderator: Dr. Indira Etwaroo, Artistic Director  
Billy Holiday Theatre  
  
Panelists:  
Susan Feldman, Artistic Director  
St. Ann's Warehouse  
  
E. Wayne MacDonald, Artistic Director  
Caribbean Cultural Theater;  
  
Jim Niesen, Artistic Director,  
Iroindale Ensemble Project

**Theatre for a New Audience** Polinsky Theater (Meet in Lobby)

- 3:30 PM **SESSION 4: Tour and Conversation with Jeffrey Horowitz, Artistic Director and Founder**  
  
Moderator: Linda Burson

**Kumble Theater** Lobby

- 5:15 PM President's Reception
- 6:45 PM End of Day

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

**The Players** 16 Gramercy Park South (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

- 10:00 AM      **SESSION 5: Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble**  
Panelists: Laurie McCants and Jon White-Spunner  
Moderator: Benny Ambush
- 11:00 AM      Break
- 11:15 AM      **SESSION 6: Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright  
Award Reading and Conversation**
- You For Me For You* by Mia Chung  
Moderators: Liz Engelman and Sharon Ott
- 12:30 PM      Break with Cash Bar
- 1:15 PM      **SESSION 7: Awards Luncheon / Presentation**
- In Memoriam: Martha Coigney  
Toast: Linda Burson
- Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award  
Recipient: Mia Chung
- Outstanding Theatre Award  
Recipient: Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble
- Emerging Professional Award  
Recipient: Rebecca Remaly
- Person of the Year  
Recipient: George Takei
- Paul Green Award  
Recipient: Elena Wang
- 2:45 PM      Break
- 3:00 PM      **SESSION 8: Q & A with George Takei**  
Moderator: Sharon Ott
- 4:00 PM      Board Meeting
- 5:00 PM      End of Day

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

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### Richard Rodgers Theater 226 West 46th Street

9:00 AM **SESSION 9:** In the House with *Hamilton*  
Sound Designer Nevin Steinberg

Moderator: Jerry Genochio

10:15 PM Break and travel to Manhattan Theatre Club Studios

### Manhattan Theatre Club Creative Center

311 W. 43rd (between 8th and 9th), 8th floor, Studio 3

10:30 AM **SESSION 10:** Meeting of the Membership  
Continental Breakfast  
Election of Trustees / NTC Business & Planning  
Update on the Women Playwrights Initiative (WPI)  
Cindy Melby Phaneuf

Update on the NTC Pipelines for New Work Initiative  
Lisa Rothe

11:00 AM **SESSION 11:** Idea Café

Cultural Mapping  
Moderator: Deborah Brevoort

12:00 PM Conference Concludes

## SESSION 1 - NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND RANTS

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Tom Bryant *The Adaptation of History to Theatre*

Mindi Dickstein *Red Herrings and MacGuffins*

Justin Ellington *You Don't Know What You Don't Know*

Christine Toy Johnson *Blaming the Lack of Gender/Racial/Cultural Parity in the Arts on those not Represented*

Elynmarie Kazle *Mentoring: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

KJ Sanchez *When it comes to Gender Parity & Racial Diversity in Leadership Positions, there's one Dirty Little Secret None of us are Talking About*

Sheila Tousey *Indians and Insulin*

## NEW MEMBERS

NTC is comprised of distinguished leaders of the American Theatre. This year, we welcome new members who were nominated by their peers and approved by the board of trustees.



**VIVIENNE BENESCH** VIVBENESCH@AOL.COM

Vivienne became Producing Artistic Director of PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, NC in January, 2016. From 2005-2016 she served as Artistic Director of the renowned Chautauqua Theater Company and Conservatory. A director, award-winning actress and educator, Vivienne has worked on and off-Broadway, in film and television, at many of the country's most celebrated theatres, and on the faculty of many of the nation's foremost theatre training programs.



**TOM BRYANT** BRYRICH@EARTHLINK.NET

Tom Bryant's dramaturgical work on Broadway includes *The Kentucky Cycle* and *All the Way* by Robert Schenkkan. Regionally, his work was seen in *All the Way* and *The Great Society* by Robert Schenkkan, and *Roe* by Lisa Loomer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Wind Cries Mary* by Phillip Kan Gotanda, at San Jose Repertory; *Discovery of America* by Arthur Kopit, and *The Mandrake Root* by Lynn Redgrave, at Long Wharf; *Apollo* by Nancy Keystone. Film development: HBO, BBC, and Disney. Teaching: Head, Theater Program, Crafton Hills College. MFA in Directing, Carnegie-Mellon University.



**MINDI DICKSTEIN** SODELILAH@AOL.COM

Mindi Dickstein is a lyricist, librettist, and playwright. Lyrics: *Little Women* (Broadway, MTI, Sh-k- boom), *Benny & Joon* (Transport Group), *Snow In August* (American Harmony Prize). Book and lyrics: *Trip* (Playwrights Horizons, Steinberg Commission), *Beasts and Saints* (Larson Award, ASCAP Workshop, Boston Theater Project), *Notes Across A Small Pond* (Bridewell Theater, London). Book: *Toy Story – The Musical* (Disney). In concert: Lincoln Center's "Hear and Now: Contemporary Lyricists" and 54 Below. Plays: *Starving To Death In Midtown* (Climate Change Theater Action 2015), *The Existential Gourmet* (Jane Chambers Award, PEN International New Playwright). MFA and faculty: NYU Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.



## JUSTIN ELLINGTON [INFO@JUSTINELLINGTON.COM](mailto:INFO@JUSTINELLINGTON.COM)

Justin Ellington's diverse musical background allows him to create in many different contexts as both composer and sound-scape artist. Whether Justin is working on a world premiere like *Other Desert Cities* (Lincoln Center) or *Fetch Clay Make Man* (McCarter Theater), a classic like *As You Like It* (Stratford Shakespeare Festival), or *Trouble In Mind* (Guthrie Theater), his interest is rooted in storytelling. Justin has been honored by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, and has received a Cinema in Industry Award for his work with George C. Wolfe at the National Civil and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta, Georgia.



## CHRISTINE TOY JOHNSON [CTOYJ@MAC.COM](mailto:CTOYJ@MAC.COM)

Christine Toy Johnson is an award-winning actor, playwright/librettist/lyricist, director and advocate for inclusion. She has been featured extensively on Broadway/Off-Broadway/TV/Film. Her written work is included in the Library of Congress Asian Pacific American Performing Arts Collection. Proud member: Dramatists Guild Council, Actors' Equity Council. Recipient of the 2013 Rosetta LeNoire Award from Actors' Equity Association.

More at [www.christinetoyjohnson.com](http://www.christinetoyjohnson.com)



## ELYNMARIE KAZLE [ELYNMARIKAZLE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ELYNMARIKAZLE@GMAIL.COM)

Elynmarie Kazle is currently serving as Adjunct Professor of Production and the Stage Management Mentor at Ohio University, and Production Manager/SM Mentor for the Akron School for the Arts. She is the National Chair of the Stage Managers' Association, a Fellow of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, and a three-time IBEN Tech Lecture Fellow from Bradley University. Kazle has worked in NY, LA and across the country for institutions such as the Cleveland Play House, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Pasadena Playhouse. She has served as a one-time cultural ambassador to Sweden, on the boards of the Akron Arts Alliance and Theatre LA, and has toured internationally. She created the highly successful USITT Stage Management Mentoring Program.





**LORCA PERESS** LORCA.PERESS@GMAIL.COM

Lorca Peress is a theatre director specializing in multicultural and multidisciplinary new works (including dance, musicals, opera), and Founder/Artistic Director of MultiStages. Faculty: NYU Tisch Strasberg Studio, Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. Memberships: SDC, AEA, League of Professional Theatre Women (Co-President 2011-14), Creative Network for Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA), Governor's Office of Puerto Rico. Bennington College and NTI graduate.



**KJ SANCHEZ** KJ@AMREC.US

KJ Sanchez is Founder/CEO of American Records, and Head of MFA Directing, UT Austin. She's directed Off Broadway in New York, and regionally including the Goodman, Center Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse, Milwaukee Rep, and Studio Theatre in D.C. Her plays have been produced at Berkeley Rep, Playmakers Rep, Asolo Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Two River, Center Stage, Round House, Cornerstone Theater Company an Off-Broadway and published by Playscripts.



**SHEILA TOUSEY** VTOUSEY@HOTMAIL.COM

Sheila Tousey is an actress with numerous film, television and theatre credits to her name including appearances in Signature Theater (Arlington) and Magic Theatre's (San Francisco) *Late Henry Moss* by Sam Shepard; and at the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis) in Marsha Norman's adaptation of Louise Erdrich's *Master Butchers Singing Club*. Training: MFA, NYU Graduate Acting Program.



**RICHARD RAND** RICHRAND@PURDUE.EDU

Richard Stockton Rand has acted on and off Broadway, throughout the USA, Europe and Canada. The recipient of an IAC-NEA Artist Fellowship, he's worked at 100+ theatres and acted, directed or choreographed 200 productions. Scholarship: *Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte; Movement for Actors; Baseball Monologues and More Monologues for Men*; and numerous journals. Purdue University: Chair, Interim Chair, Undergraduate Coordinator, Senior Faculty Mentor. Past President, Association of Theatre Movement Educators.

## SESSION 2 - VISIT AND TOUR OF BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC



Tour of the Fisher Building  
with Neil Kutner, Director  
of Production

## SESSION 3 - BROOKLYN, NY: VANGUARD OF NEW THEATRE SCENE



**DR. INDIRA ETWAROO**, (MODERATOR) is the Executive Director of the Billie Holiday Theatre is a non-profit arts leader, educator, and scholar, and has worked with institutions across the world. Indira's passion is exploring the complex intersections between community, performing arts and the topics-of-our-time. Indira has received many honors for her work, including being named one of the "40 under 40" National Black Leaders by The Network Journal.



**SUSAN FELDMAN** is the President and Artistic Director of St. Ann's Warehouse. She has built a career activating found spaces and turning them into cultural destinations, starting with the adaptive re-use of the landmark church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in association with the NY Landmarks Conservancy and World Monuments Fund. Since then, St. Ann's Warehouse has become a vital international presenter on New York City's cultural landscape. The crowning achievement of Susan's career was building a permanent home for St. Ann's in an historic Tobacco Warehouse on the Brooklyn waterfront.



**E. WAYNE McDONALD** is the Founding Artistic Director of the Caribbean Cultural Theatre and Artist in Residence at the Caribbean Research Center — Medgar Evers College (CUNY). He has consciously sought, facilitated and mounted work that interrogates the Caribbean. He earned an Outstanding Director nomination from the AUDELCO Awards for Excellence in Black Theater. He has studied at the Jamaica School of Drama, the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and holds a MA from the NY Institute of Technology. He is also the founder and curator of the Poets and Passions literary series.



**JIM NIESEN** has served as the Irondale Ensemble Project's Artistic Director since the theatre's founding in 1983, directing more than 60 productions. Over the course of his tenure Jim has evolved Irondale's style from wildly improvised original works to daring reimagining of major classics. What has remained constant in the theatre's evolution is the use of the permanent ensemble, actors working together on a daily basis — often for many years. He is a 38-year resident of Brooklyn's Boerum Hill neighborhood and is listed in Who's Who in America.

## SESSION 4 - THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

The mission of Theatre for a New Audience is to develop and vitalize the performance and study of Shakespeare and classic drama. Theatre for a New Audience is guided in their work by five core values: a reverence for language, a spirit of adventure, a commitment to diversity, a dedication to learning, and a spirit of service. These values inform what they do with artists, how they interact with audiences, and how they manage our organization.

### FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JEFFREY HOROWITZ



Jeffrey Horowitz is the Founder and Artistic Director of Theatre for a New Audience. Since the company's founding in 1979, he has produced 24 of Shakespeare's plays, Greek, Jacobean, and Italian classical drama, and contemporary classics. Under his leadership, TFANA has grown from a touring theatre into one of New York's leading classical theatres with nationally recognized programs. Horowitz has served on the Panel of the New York State Council on the Arts and on the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group. He is currently on the Advisory Board of The

Shakespeare Society, the Artistic Directorate of London's Globe Theatre, and the Artistic Advisor to the Shakespeare Globe Centre (USA). He has participated in numerous panels on Shakespeare's plays including, most recently, Symposia at The Public Theater, SDC, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and ABC's "World News Tonight." For his work with Theatre for a New Audience, he has been awarded The Acting Company's John Houseman Award and the Breukelein Institute's Gaudium Award.

Thank you to TFANA, BAM and Rodney Hurley, Managing Director of the Kumble Theater

## SESSION 5 - BLOOMSBURG THEATRE ENSEMBLE (BTE)

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### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, LAURIE MCCANTS

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Laurie McCants co-founded BTE in 1978. Her original work includes *The Alexandria Carry-On*, which toured Egypt, *Our Shadows*, co-created with Cairo-based WAMDA, *Hard Coal* (with James Goode), and *Susquehanna*. Deborah Brevoort's *The Women of Lockerbie* remains most cherished among her many directing experiences. Recently, she played the Gravedigger in *Hamlet* and Winnie in *Happy Days* at BTE, and she directed *Battles of Fire and Water* at Alaska's Perseverance Theatre. In 2010, she was named an actor of "Distinguished Achievement" through a Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship, funded by the William & Eva Fox Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group. She's been a member of the National Theatre Conference since 2014. Her touring solo show *Industrious Angels* premiered at the Ko Festival in Amherst, MA. She is currently the director for *Gunpowder Joe* by Anthony Clarvoe (NTC's 1990 Stavis Playwright), which will premiere at BTE in 2017.

### MANAGING DIRECTOR, JON WHITE-SPUNNER

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Jon White-Spunner is in his 11th season as Managing Director at Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. In South Africa, he served as Managing Director of His Majesty's Theatre in Johannesburg, ran a performing arts center at the University of Cape Town, and his own production company, which produced and toured shows in South Africa and Namibia. Between 1980 and 1992, Jon served as General Manager of the world famous Market Theatre. As the Market's World Tour Manager for *Wathint' Abafazi*, *Wathint' Imbokodo*, Jon toured to over 80 cities in 11 different countries. Since moving to the USA in 1992, in addition to his time with BTE, he served as Managing Director and Manager of Community Outreach at Stoneham Theatre in Boston. He co-founded 24th Street Theatre, now in its 20th season, in Los Angeles.

## SESSION 6 - BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT AWARD

Recognizing an outstanding emerging playwright, the Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award was established in 1988 to honor the work of playwright Barrie Stavis. Each year, NTC sends out a call to artistic directors and literary managers of theatres and play development organizations across the country inviting submissions.

### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



**MIA CHUNG** Mia Chung's play *You for Me For You* had a UK premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in December 2015 and is published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama. The play premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theatre (in association with Ma-Yi Theatre and the NEA) and subsequently produced by Company One, Portland Playhouse, and Mu Performing Arts/Guthrie Theater. In Spring 2017, the play will run at InterAct Theatre. Her other plays include *Catch as Catch Can*, *This Exquisite Corpse*, and *Skin in the Game*. Her work has been supported by awards, commissions, fellowships, and residencies including Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Civilians' R&D Group, Hedgebrook, JAW, LAByrinth, Playwrights Realm, South Coast Rep, Southern Rep, Stella Adler Studio, and TCG. She is a member of New Dramatists, Ma-Yi's Writers Lab, and Huntington Theatre's Playwright Fellows. She attended Yale; University of Dublin, Trinity College; and Brown.

### READING FROM *YOU FOR ME FOR YOU* BY MIA CHUNG

*As they attempt to flee the Best Nation in the World, North Korean sisters Minhee and Junhee are torn apart at the border. Each must race across time and space to be together again—navigating the perilous Land of the Free and the treacherous terrain of personal belief.*

Nominated by: Kirsten Bowen, Literary Director  
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company





## BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT AWARD HISTORY

Year	Playwright	Title of Play
2016	Mia Chung	<i>You for Me for You</i>
2015	Jessica Dickey	<i>The Guard</i>
2014	Jeff Augustin	<i>Cry the Old Kingdom</i>
2013	Jackie Sibblies Drury	<i>We Are Proud to Present...</i>
2012	Dominique Morisseau	<i>Detroit '67</i>
2011	Danaï Gurira	<i>The Convert</i>
2010	Peter Sinn Nachtrieb	<i>Bob: A Life in Five Acts</i>
2009	Aditi Brennan Kapil	<i>Love Person</i>
2008	David Davalos	<i>Wittenberg</i>
2007	Kate Fodor	<i>100 Saints You Should Know</i>
2006	Colin McKenna	<i>The Secret Agent of Trees</i>
2005	Julia Cho	<i>Durango</i>
2004	Brian Dykstra	<i>Hiding Behind Comets</i>
2003	Carson Sarah Kreitzer	<i>The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>
2002	Eric Coble	<i>Bright Ideas</i>
2001	Naomi Iizuka	<i>36 Views</i>
2000	Thomas Gibbons	<i>Bee-Luther-Hatchee</i>
1999	Nilo Cruz	<i>Two Sisters and a Piano</i>
1998	Richard Helleston	
1997	Keith Glover	
1996	Dennis Covington	
1995	Eduardo Machado	
1994	Theresa Rebeck	
1993	Edwin Sanchez	
1992	Octavio Solis	
1991	Erin Cressida Wilson	
1990	Anthony Clarvoe	
1989	Ezra Goldstein	

Members: Scott Steele, Sherry Eaker, Martha Richards and Jean Bruce Scott (front) at the NTC 2015 Meeting of the Membership Idea Cafe





## SESSION 7 - NTC AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING THEATRE AWARD - BLOOMSBURG THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Established in 1996, the Outstanding Theatre Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a not-for-profit theatre.



Their mission reflects their name — the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE). “We are dedicated, over time, to our community, to theatre as a patient but powerful instrument of understanding and social change, and to one another as artists. As a resident ensemble united by the responsibility we share for the stability and growth of our theatre, we demonstrate the viability of collective artistic direction.”

Founded in 1978 in a small town in rural Pennsylvania, the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) is an artist-driven resident ensemble creating innovative work with national, international, and local impact. Hallmarks have been company created works on regional history: *Hard Coal, Life in the Region* (published by TCG in “Ensemble Works”), *Flood Stories, Too; Letters to the Editor* (published by Baker’s Plays), *Susquehanna* (the latter two were aired on the regional PBS station); and *Patchworks: Life and Legends of the Coal Towns*.

Established playwrights look to our ensemble to help them develop and produce their work: Michael Hollinger’s *Opus* went on to be among the ten most-produced plays in the country after he fine-tuned the script during our rehearsals; Deborah Brevoort praises our production of *The Women of Lockerbie* as “the number-one, stand-out production of my play to date” after over 270 world-wide; Jon Jory chose our ensemble to present the world premiere of his adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Emma*. Anthony Clarvoe fine-tuned *Ambition Facing West* and workshopped *The Deer Hunter’s Bible* with us. He is currently collaborating with the ensemble on a new play that will be premiered in 2017.

We have toured sub-Saharan Africa, we have collaborated with artists we met there, as well as with artists from Egypt and Japan. BTE hosts the Noh Training Project, the only intensive training outside Japan in that culture’s traditional Noh performance. This program draws students from around the world and thrice has presented full Noh productions for free in Bloomsburg’s Town Park. BTE is a leader in the national ensemble theatre movement, as a co-founder of the Network of Ensemble Theaters.

<http://www.bte.org>

## OUTSTANDING THEATRE AND EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD HISTORY

Year	Outstanding Theatre	Emerging Professional
2016	Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, PA	Rebecca Remaly
2015	Illusion Theater, MN	Isabel Nelson, Diogo Lopes
2014	Yale Repertory Theatre, CT	Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
2013	Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR	Ed Sylvanus Iskandar
2012	New Federal Theatre, NY	Eric Lockley
2011	Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, OH	Terah Herman
2010	Playwrights Horizons, NY	No Award
2009	The Living Theatre, NY	No Award
2008	El Teatro Campesino, CA	Kinan Valdez
2007	The Creede Repertory Theatre, CO	Jeff Carey
2006	The Public Theatre, NY	Andi Stover
2005	The Dell'Arte Company, CA	Keight Gleason, Tyler Olsen
2004	The Black Rep, MO	Xosha Roquemore
2003	Signature Theatre, NY	Sarah K. Bartlo
2002	American Repertory Theatre, MA	Ryan McKittrick
2001	The Goodman Theatre, IL	Jay Paul Skelton
2000	The Children's Theatre Company, MN	Andrew D. Madsen
1999	South Coast Repertory, CA	Terrance Winston
1998	Roundabout Theatre, NY	Mary Grace Landiver
1997	Old Globe Theatre, CA	Brendon Fox
1996	Steppenwolf Theatre, IL	Ian Barford

Members  
Kym Moore and  
Erica Tobolski at  
the 2015  
National Theatre  
Conference at  
The Players



National Theatre Conference 2016

## EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Presented to persons demonstrating exemplary promise in a professional theatre organization. The winner is selected by the Artistic Director of NTC's Outstanding Theatre of the year.



**REBECCA REMALY** is Managing Director of Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company (BETC), which she co-founded in 2006. Entering its 11th season, BETC has grown from scratch to a robust, award-winning, professional theatre with an operating budget exceeding \$500K. In 2015, Rebecca accepted BETC's National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, founder of the Tony Awards. Directing credits with BETC include *Cyrano*, *Outside Mullingar*, *The Aliens*, *Annapurna* (2014 True West Award, Best Production), *Mauritius*, *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf* (2011 Daily Camera Eye Award, Best Comedy), *The Clean House*, *Copenhagen*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, *Savage in Limbo*, and the world premiere of *Morisot Reclining* (Henry Award Nomination, Best New Play 2009). Sometimes an actor, Rebecca appeared in the BETC productions *Stupid F##king Bird* (Mash), *Doubt* (Sister James), *Stop Kiss* (Sara), *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura) and *Antigone* (Ismene). Prior to moving to Colorado, Rebecca worked at several East Coast theatre companies, including Manhattan Theatre Club, George Street Playhouse, and Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

**BOULDER ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY** (BETC) was founded in 2006 by Managing Director Rebecca Remaly and Producing Ensemble Director Stephen Weitz. Committed to producing the best new scripts, BETC has produced four world premieres and twenty-three regional premieres in its first decade. Now in its 11th season, BETC's organizational structure includes a board of directors, two full-time and three part-time staff members, and the artistic ensemble. Ensemble members are professional, experienced local actors, directors, designers, dramaturgs, and technicians. These artists represent BETC within the larger metropolitan community, and are highly visible, positive advocates whose voices help to shape the direction and vision of BETC's work. BETC has received support from prominent funders including the National Endowment for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and Wells Fargo. BETC is a 2015 recipient of the National Theatre Company award from the American Theatre Wing, founder of the Tony Awards.

## PERSON OF THE YEAR, GEORGE TAKEI

Awarded annually to an individual who has made an outstanding and noteworthy contribution to the theatre.



**GEORGE TAKEI** is an American actor, director, author, and activist. In an acting career spanning six decades, which includes more than 40 feature films and hundreds of TV guest starring roles, Mr. Takei is best known for his portrayal of Mr. Sulu in the TV series *Star Trek* and six *Star Trek* feature films. Mr. Takei and his family were among 120,000 Japanese-Americans incarcerated in U.S. internment camps during WW II, which inspired the musical *Allegiance*, which premiered at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre and then on Broadway starring Takei in his Broadway debut. Among current

projects, he is set to play the role of Reciter in the revival of Stephen Sondheim's and John Weidman's *Pacific Overtures* directed by John Doyle and opening Off Broadway at the Classic Stage Company in April 2017.

Mr. Takei's autobiography, *To the Stars*, was published in 1994, and in 2012 and 2013 respectively, he published his second and third books, *Oh Myyy! There Goes The Internet*, and its sequel, *Lions And Tigers and Bears: The Internet Strikes Back*, both about his forays on social media and the Internet. Both books made the Amazon e-book and paperback bestseller lists in 2012 and 2013. *To Be Takei*, a Jennifer M. Kroot documentary on the life and career of Takei, premiered at Sundance Film Festival in January 2014. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Actors' Equity Association, and SAG-AFTRA. A community activist, Mr. Takei serves as Chair of the Council of Governors of East West Players, the nation's foremost Asian Pacific American theatre. He is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender political organization. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Japanese American National Museum's Board of Trustees; a member of the US-Japan Bridging Foundation's Board of Directors; and served on the Board of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission under President Clinton. In recognition of his contribution to the Japan-United States relationship, Mr. Takei was conferred with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan in 2004.

## PAUL GREEN AWARD - ELENA WANG

The Paul Green Award recognizes and encourages excellence in new professional theatre talent and is presented to a young theatre artist selected by the National Theatre Conference's Person of the Year. Named for Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, the award has been given at NTC since 1988. Paul Green served as the National Theatre Conference President in 1941 and '42. In 1982 the Foundation was formed to carry on his work and each year the Trustees award grants in the areas of the arts and human rights. He left a legacy that touches the lives of many thousands of people.



**ELENA WANG** has worked in Australia, London, Singapore and the US. She has a BA in musical theatre from Lasalle College of the Arts (Singapore) and an MFA in Film from New York Film Academy (LA). Prior to the US, Elena performed in *The King and I* with Daniel Dae Kim (*Hawaii 5 O*) at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London. While in Singapore, her leading roles such as Ivy in *Beauty World* and Snow White in *Snow White*, won Elena ELLE magazine's 'Breakout Star of the Year'. Her recent works in the States include the role of

Kim in *Miss Saigon* (LA) and *Allegiance* on Broadway as Nan/Kei Kimura. Elena is excited to explore life here in NYC, and is now in the midst of launching an actionfilm production company, Berte' Productions, with expert martial artist/actor/stunt coordinator Federico Berte' (Badass, Iron Fist).



*Supported by a grant from the*

**Paul Green Foundation, Inc.**

*Serving the Arts and Human Rights since 1982*

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA



## PERSON OF THE YEAR AND PAUL GREEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

2016	George Takei	→	Elena Wang
2015	P. Carl	→	Mary Kathryn Nagle
2014	Wendall K. Harrington	→	Amelia Roper
2013	Lynn Nottage	→	Chisa Hutchinson
2012	Elizabeth McCann	→	Micheline Auger
2011	Emily Mann	→	May Adrales
2010	August Wilson	→	Jade King Carroll
2009	Tony Kushner	→	Marsha Stephanie Blake
2008	Lois Smith	→	Darci Picoult
2007	Jack O'Brien	→	Benjamin Endsley Klein
2006	Suzan-Lori Parks	→	Bonnie Metzgar
2005	Michael Kahn	→	David Muse
2004	Lanford Wilson	→	Steven Drukman
2003	John Guare	→	Christopher Shinn
2002	Estelle Parsons	→	Gioia Marchese
2001	Marian Seldes	→	Kathleen Early
2000	William Ivey Long	→	Kate Levering
1999	Sir Peter Hall	→	Hamish Linklater
1998	Jerry Bock	→	Deborah Brevoort
1997	Edward Albee	→	Kevin Cunningham
1996	Zoe Caldwell & Robert Whitehead	→	Laura Hembree
1995	Terrence McNally	→	Tim Sheridan
1994	Anna Deavere Smith	→	Shay Youngblood
1993	George C. Wolfe	→	Suzan-Lori Parks
1992	Lynne Meadow	→	Mark Brokaw
1991	Norris Houghton	→	Annie Brockway
1990	Wendy Wasserstein	→	Peter Parnell
1989	Colleen Dewhurst	→	Tracy Copeland, Garrett Dilhunst
1988	Robert Wilson		Jennifer Rohn
1987	Greg Mosher		Clark Gregg
<b>Pre Paul Green Years</b>			
1986	Martha Coigney	1977	Danny Newman
1985	Ming Cho Lee	1976	John Houseman
1984	Jon Jory	1974	Paul Green
1983	Adrian Hall	1973	Ruth Mayleas
1982	Peter Zeisler	1972	Tennessee Williams
1981	Ellen Stewart	1971	Zelda Fichandler
1980	Lloyd Richards	1970	Roger L. Stevens
1979	Douglas Turner Ward	1969	Joseph Papp
1978	Gordon Davidson	1968	Rosamond Glider
		1967	Hallie Flanagan Davis

## SESSION 8 - CONVERSATION WITH GEORGE TAKEI

A conversation and Question and Answer session with George Takei, moderated by Sharon Ott. See page 18 for biography..



The 2015 Panel on History and Culture of Harlem Black Theater at the Harlem Hospital's Herbert Cave Auditorium

## SESSION 9 - THE SOUND OF *HAMILTON* - IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED

A conversation with *Hamilton* sound designer Nevin Steinberg. With almost 50 Broadway shows, 6 Tony nominations 13 Drama Desk nominations, of which 6 received the Drama Desk Award, including best sound design for *Hamilton*; Nevin will discuss *Hamilton*'s journey from the Public Theatre to Broadway. We will learn about his new Broadway show *Dear Evan Hansen*, the Tony awards and more. Find out what it was like to be in the room where it happened, all from the house of the Richard Rodgers Theatre.



**NEVIN STEINBERG** Nevin Steinberg (Sound Design): Recent Broadway: *Bright Star*, *Hamilton*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *Mothers and Sons*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Tony nomination), *The Performers*, *Magic/Bird*. Off-Broadway: *Dear Evan Hansen* (Second Stage), *Hamilton* (The Public Theater), *The Landing* (The Vineyard Theatre), *Far From Heaven* (Playwrights Horizons). Nevin is the AudioConsultant for Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium. Over thirty Broadway productions as a former founding principal of Acme Sound Partners and five additional Tony nominations for The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *Fences*, *Hair* and *In The Heights*.

## SESSION 10 - MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

**Nomination of New Members  
Women Playwrights Initiative  
NTC Pipelines for New Work  
New Business**

Jerry Genochio and  
Cindy Melby Phaneuf  
at the 2015 conference



## SESSION 11 - IDEA CAFÉ

The Idea Café was created in 2014 to provide an opportunity for the membership to brainstorm about new initiatives to connect, support and advocate for the American Theatre. This year, Deborah Brevoort leads a session on Cultural Mapping.

Cultural Mapping was developed at the Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska, where Deborah served as Producing Director and a company member for nearly 15 years. The exercise was created in order to facilitate cross-cultural communication between the members of the company who came from different regions and cultural groups within Alaska. Participants form groups around a series of questions, finding common points within each group. It requires some physical movement, but don't worry, it's not strenuous!

### 2016 NTC COMMITTEES

**Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award Committee:** Sharon Ott (Chair), David Davalos, Liz Engelman, Anita Gonzalez, Phillip Kan Gotanda

**Brooklyn Events Committee:** Donna Walker-Kuhne (Chair), Susan Bernfield, Linda Burson, Sherry Eaker, David Fuller, Elizabeth Van Dyke

**Community Engagement and Newsletter Committee:** Jeni Mahoney and Anita Gonzalez (Co-Chairs), Scott Steele, Elizabeth Van Dyke and Jocelyn Aptowitz

**Nominating Committee:** Deborah Brevoort (Chair), David Leong, Sharon Ott

**Outstanding Theatre Award Committee:** Benny Sato Ambush (Chair), Kathleen Conlin, Fran Dorn, Susan Mickey, James Still

**Pipelines for New Works Committee:** Lisa Rothe (Chair), Benny Sato Ambush, Susan Bernfield, Risa Brainin, Deborah Brevoort, Linda Chapman, John Eisner, Michael Hood, Shellen Lubin, Jeni Mahoney, Sharon Ott, Sarah Rasmussen, Lisa Wolpe

**Special Awards Committee:** Arthur Bartow (Chair), James Bundy, Lorca Peress, Michael Hood, Woody King, Jim Sullivan

**WPI Committee:** Cindy Melby Phaneuf (Chair), Kathleen Conlin, Randy Reinholz, Robert Schenckan

**Save the Date! NTC Conference 2017,  
December 1, 2 and 3 at the Players and More!**

Special Thanks: President's Assistant, Sara Rademacher  
Conference Staff: Emily Jewell, Starr Kirkland & Aaron Wrigley  
Photography: Michael Klaers

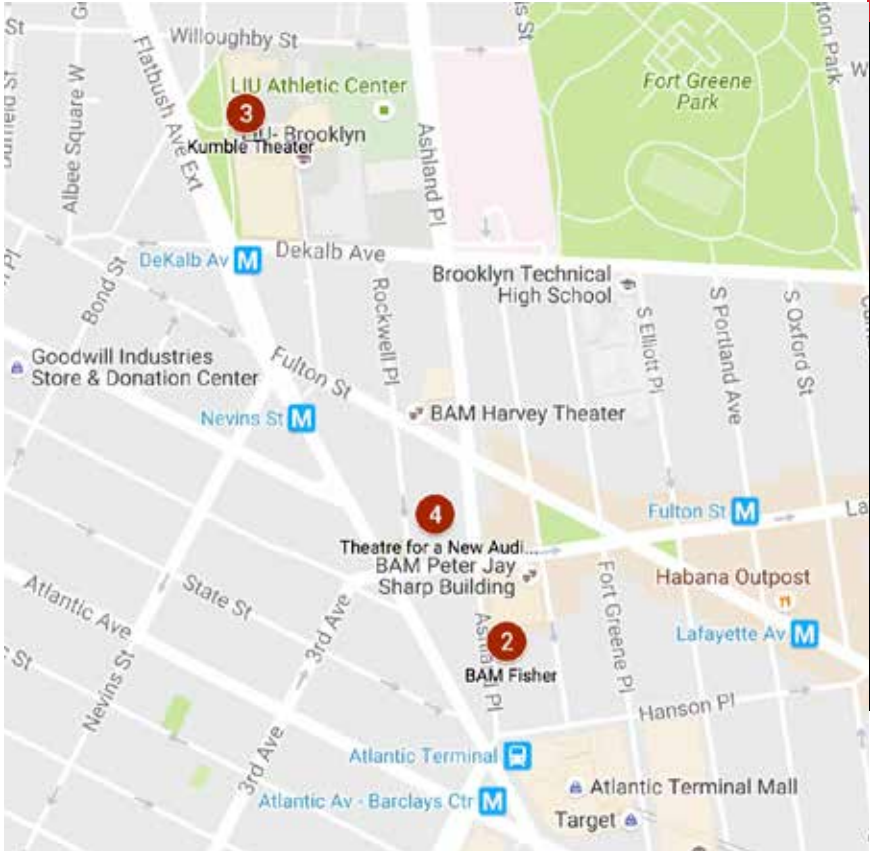


## SUBWAY DIRECTIONS FROM PLAYERS TO BROOKLYN EVENTS

### Start at The Players, 16 Gramercy Park South

From The Players, Walk a block West on 20th street, Then turn left to walk South on Park Ave S.14th Street Union Square (14th & Park).

Take the **NQ** or **R** train DOWNTOWN toward Coney Island/Stillwell Ave.



Exit at **Atlantic Ave**, Barclays Center.

Cross Flatbush Ave and walk north on Ashland place for about one block. The BAM Fisher Building will be on the left.

## NTC HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1925: A group of leaders from top university programs call for a series of conferences that led to the founding of the National Theatre Conference (NTC).

1931: At a conference at Northwestern University, the NTC is organized and adopts its name.

1936: NTC membership is limited to 25 distinguished leaders.

1939: NTC membership is increased to 50 distinguished leaders.

1941-1945: NTC receives a five-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and initiates the War Bond Project, producing shows at community theatres nationwide. The purchase of a War Bond was the price of admission. After the war, NTC presents shows at army hospitals and conducts a program for veterans. In 1945, the NTC was formally incorporated as a 501 (c) (3).

1946 -1951: In recognition of NTC's efforts, the Rockefeller Foundation presents NTC with another, long term grant of \$155,000.

1947: NTC initiates several large projects including the New York Tryout Studio, where young actors who were unemployed during the war were given the opportunity to present productions to agents; the successful NTC Touring Company (eventually the Brown County Playhouse of Indiana); and the overseeing of six regional theatre conferences throughout the U.S.

1961: NTC's Appraisal Project studies significant alterations to the American theatre since the end of World War II.

1967: The Person of the Year Award is established.

1968: NTC assisted in publishing Marston Balch, Pauline Temkin and Robert Edward-Gard's influential work, *Theatre in America: Appraisal and Challenge*.

1975: The now annual NYC meeting relocates to The Players.

1987: The Paul Green Award is created.

1988: Membership is increased to 120 distinguished leaders.

1989: The Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award is created to honor an emerging playwright.

1996: The Outstanding Theatre Award and the Emerging Professional Award (formally-the NTC Scholarship Award) are created.

2008: August W. Staub's *The National Theatre Conference: The First Seventy-Five Years 1931-2006* is published.

2010: The Women Playwrights Initiative (WPI) is launched to contribute to the international movement towards gender parity. Membership is increased to 150 distinguished members.

2011-2015: 300 plays by women are produced by member organizations in the first two phases of the WPI initiative.

2015: The NTC Pipelines for New Work Initiative is introduced.

2016-2017: Phase Three of WPI is on track to produce 200 plays by women, for a total of 500 plays. Goal: 50/50 by 2020!

## NTC PAST PRESIDENTS

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2015 - 2016	Risa Brainin
2013 - 2014	Cindy Melby Phaneuf
2011 - 2012	Dan Carter
2009 - 2010	Jim O'Connor
2007 - 2008	Jack Wright
2005 - 2006	Carole Brandt
2003 - 2004	Kathleen Conlin
2001 - 2002	Sidney Berger
1999 - 2000	Scott Parker
1997 - 1998	Jim Volz
1994 - 1996	Alan Rust
1991 - 1993	Berenice Weiler
1988 - 1990	Milly Barranger
1986 - 1987	Douglas Cook
1983 - 1985	Martha Coigney
1981 - 1982	Reuben Silver
1978 - 1980	Arthur Wagner
1976 - 1977	Jay Broad
1973 - 1975	Greg Falls
1970 - 1973	Kendrick Wilson
1968 - 1969	Norris Houghton
1966 - 1967	Arnold Gillette
1964 - 1965	F. Curtis Canfield
1962 - 1963	Theodore Viehman
1958 - 1961	Paul Baker
1954	Lee Norvelle
1953	Frederick McConnel
1945 - 1952	Sawyer Falk
1943 - 1944	Lee Norvelle
1941 - 1942	Paul Green
1935 - 1940	Gilmor Brown
1932 - 1935	George Pierce Baker

# NTC

# national theatre conference

connecting, supporting and advocating for america's theatre since 1925

## ALASKA

Arthur R. Rotch

## ARIZONA

E. Reid Gilbert  
Jacob Pinholster

## CALIFORNIA

Margaret Booker  
Norma Bowles  
Risa Brainin  
Kirsten Brandt  
Tom Bryant  
Harry Elam  
José Cruz González  
Philip Kan Gotanda  
Jon Gottlieb  
Meredith Greenburg  
D.W. Jacobs  
Jean Prinz Korf  
Alma Martinez  
Michael F. Ramsaur  
Randy Reinholz  
Martha Richards  
D.L. Rosenberg  
Steve Rothman  
Jean Bruce Scott  
James Still  
Jim Volz  
Lisa Wolpe

## CONNECTICUT

James Bundy  
Gary English

## DELAWARE

Sanford Robbins

## FLORIDA

Jim Helsingier  
Cameron Jackson

## GEORGIA

Sharon Ott

## ILLINOIS

Kathleen Conlin  
Joel Fink  
John R. Poole  
J.R. (Jim) Sullivan

## INDIANA

Mark Alan Heckler  
R. Keith Michael  
Richard Rand  
Richard K. Thomas

## IOWA

Kim Marra

## KANSAS

Jack B. Wright

## KENTUCKY

Baron Kelly

## LOUISIANA

Gresdna Doty

## MARYLAND

Ian Gallanar

## MASSACHUSETTS

Benny Sato Ambush  
Robert J. Bruyr  
Tony Simotes

## MICHIGAN

Anita González  
Priscilla Lindsay

## MINNESOTA

Sarah Rasmussen  
Barbara Reid

## MISSISSIPPI

Rhona Justice-Malloj

## MISSOURI

Jerry Genochio  
Felicia Londré  
Tom Mardikes  
Peter E. Sargent  
Steve Woolf

## NEBRASKA

Cindy Melby Phaneuf  
Paul Steger

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeni Mahoney

## NEW JERSEY

Deborah Brevoort  
Ramon Delgado  
Jill Dolan  
Holly Rhoades Logue  
Amy Saltz  
Stacy Wolf

## NEW MEXICO

Robert Benedetti  
Gil Lazier  
Beverley Byers-Pevitts

## NEW YORK

Milly Barranger  
Arthur Bartow  
Susan Bernfield  
Linda Burson  
Tisa Chang  
Linda Chapman  
Julie Crosby  
Mindi Dickstein  
Sherry Eaker  
John Clinton Eisner  
Justin Ellington  
Bill Esper  
David Feldshuh  
Mira Felner  
Angelina Fiordellisi  
David Fuller  
Margot Harley  
Stephen Henderson  
Arlene Hutton  
Michael G. Keck  
Woodie King Jr.  
Bruce Levitt  
Shellen Lubin  
William Martin  
Muriel Miguel  
Charles Morey  
Lorca Peress  
Lisa Rothe  
Robert Schenkkan  
Scott L. Steele  
Caridad Svich  
Michael S. Tick  
Christine Toy Johnson  
Frank Trezza  
Elizabeth Van Dyke  
Donna Walker-Kuhne  
Talvin Wilks

## NORTH CAROLINA

Vivienne Benesch  
James Fisher  
David Hammond  
Michael Hardy  
Ed Simpson  
Scott J. Parker

## OHIO

Elynmarie Kazle  
Terrance Spivey  
Edward Stern

## OREGON

Alison Carey

## PENNSYLVANIA

Karla Boos  
Dan Carter  
Michael Hood  
Laurie McCants  
Susan Tsu

## RHODE ISLAND

Kym Moore

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Jim O'Connor  
Erica Tobolski

## TENNESSEE

Calvin MacLean

## TEXAS

Fran Dorn  
Liz Engelman  
Richard Isackes  
Susan Mickey  
Brant Pope  
KJ Sanchez

## UTAH

William J. Byrnes  
R. Scott Phillips

## VERMONT

Theodore Herstand

## VIRGINIA

Ralph Cohen  
Jere Lee Hodgkin  
David S. Leong  
David Weiss

## WASHINGTON

Kevin Maifeld  
Valerie Curtis-Newton  
Barry Witham

## WISCONSIN

Sheila Tousey